

# Rurouni Kenshin



SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Nobuhiro Watsuki

volume

18



和月伸宏

NOBUHIRO WATSUKI



## ACTION DOLL

I DID IT, I FINALLY DID IT—A SHÔJO (FEMALE-BODY) ACTION FIGURE! THO' I SWORE I NEVER WOULD, NAKORURU—RIMURURU—POSABLE JOINTS—O, THE POSABLE JOINTS!! "NOBUHIRO WATSUKI" HAS FOUND HIMSELF HAVING TO CATCH 'EM ALL, OLD SCHOOL POKEMON-STYLE! IF THEY WERE TO RELEASE A "TWO-PLAYER" VERSION OF NAKO/RIMU, NOW...OH, MAN. OHMANOHMANOHMAN!!

ACTION DOLLS, THOUGH... WAIT!! THIS ISN'T THE "NEW DIRECTION" I TALKED ABOUT LAST TIME, IS IT?! BECAUSE, IF IT WERE, THAT WOULD BE JUST TOO SAD....

*Rurouni Kenshin*, which has found fans not only in Japan but around the world, first made its appearance in 1992, as an original short story in *Weekly Shonen Jump Special*. Later rewritten and published as a regular, continuing *Jump* series in 1994, *Rurouni Kenshin* ended serialization in 1999 but continued in popularity, as evidenced by the 2000 publication of *Yahiko no Sakabatô* ("Yahiko's Reversed-Edge Sword") in *Weekly Shonen Jump*. His most current work, *Busô Renkin* ("Armored Alchemist"), began publication in June 2003, also in *Jump*.

**RUROUNI KENSHIN**  
**VOL. 18: DO YOU STILL BEAR THE SCAR?**  
**The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition**

**STORY AND ART BY**  
**NOBUHIRO WATSUKI**

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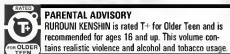
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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY & ART  
BY  
NOBUHIRO  
WATSUKI



Rurouni  
Kenshin™

MEIJI SWORDSMAN ROMANTIC STORY

Vol. 18: DO YOU STILL BEAR THE SCAR?



Once he was *hitokiri*, an assassin, called Battōsai. His name was legend among the pro-Imperialist or "patriot" warriors who launched the Meiji Era. Now, Himura Kenshin is *rarouni*, a wanderer, and carries a reversed-edge *sakabatō* to prohibit himself from killing.

## THUS FAR

Kenshin has journeyed to Kyoto to block the machinations of Shishio Makoto, the man who took Kenshin's place as *hitokiri*, a government-sanctioned slayer of men. In a duel with Sōjirō, one of the madman Shishio's *Juppongatana* "Ten Sword" assassins, Kenshin's former blade is broken and a new one is acquired—"Shinuchi," a *sakabatō* like the first.

Newly armed (and after an edge-of-death battle with his former *Hiten Mitsurugi* master, Ilko Seijūrō), Kenshin joins up with Sanosuke and Saitō so that they may foil the plans of Shishio to burn down Kyoto and attack Tokyo by cannon. Arriving at Shishio's lair at last, the three are met by Shishio's three best: "Bright King" Anji, "Blind Sword" Usui, and the ever-smiling Sōjirō. After fierce battles, Anji is defeated by Sanosuke, and Usui dies against Saitō. Sōjirō, defeated by Kenshin despite the latter's vow never to kill, decides he must leave Shishio's side and seek the truth on his own terms.

Finally Kenshin reaches the "Infernal Hall" and challenges its madman owner, beginning a terrible battle in which Yumi dies at Shishio's hand, and the overheated body of Shishio himself ignites and disappears into flame. A month goes by, Kenshin's wounds heal, and drinking binges occur daily at Shiroboko, where everyone stays during the rebuilding of Aoi-Ya. Just then, "Sword Hunter" Chō, now an intelligence officer, drops by and tells of the fates of the remaining *Juppongatana*...

神谷  
薫



Kamiya Kaoru

相樂  
左之助



Sagara Sanosuke

明神  
弥彦



Myōjin Yahiko

緋村  
剣心  
(入斬り抜刀斎)



Himura Kenshin  
(Hitokiri Battōsai)

高荷  
恵



Takani Megumi

三条  
燕



Sanjō Tsubame



C

A

S

T



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TWEE  
TWEE  
TWEE



YOU'RE  
WHAT?!

YOU'RE  
GOING BACK  
TO TOKYO  
WHEN?!

FLAP  
FLAP



BUT WHY,  
THOUGH  
?!

NOW THAT THE  
NEW AOI-YA'S  
FINALLY FINISHED,  
THERE'S SO MUCH  
FUN WE  
CAN HAVE  
TOGETHER!!

...WE'VE  
ALREADY  
BEEN A  
BURDEN FOR  
SO LONG...

...AND WE  
DO HAVE  
OUR OWN  
DOJO TO  
REOPEN IN  
TOKYO...

SHRIE

WELL,  
YOU  
SEE...

...I KNOW  
YOU MEAN  
WELL, MISAO,  
SO I'LL LET  
THAT GO.

SAY IT AGAIN,  
THOUGH, AND  
I'LL CLOBBER  
YOU. ♡

WHO CARES?!  
WHAT GOOD IS  
SOME DOJO WITH  
ONE LOUSY  
STUDENT,  
ANYWAY?!

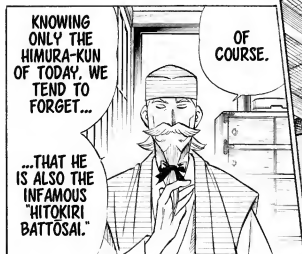
BUT WE'VE  
ALREADY BOUGHT  
OUR BOAT  
TICKETS...

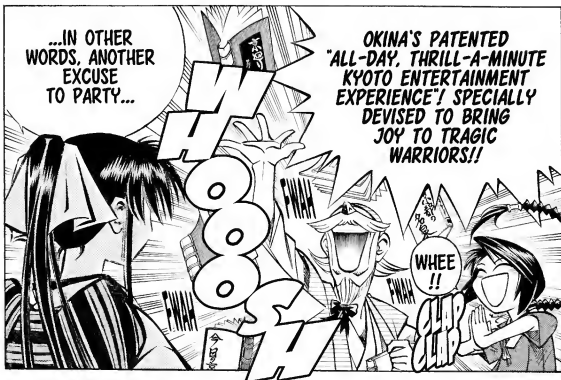
...AND, TO  
KENSIN, THIS IS  
A PLACE OF  
BITTER  
MEMORIES.

IT'S BEST  
WE DON'T  
STAY TOO  
LONG.

THIS  
IS SO  
SUDDEN...

WHY  
NOT STAY  
ANOTHER  
TWO, THREE  
DAYS, AT  
LEAST?







TOGETHER  
?

NOPE.  
ALONE.

KENSHIN  
WAS  
ALREADY  
GONE  
WHEN WE  
WOKE UP.



KENSHIN  
AND SANOSUKE  
ARE BOTH  
OUT.

HUH?



GOING  
OUT...

...WHERE?

**TP TP**

I'M  
GOING OUT,  
TOO.



NOT TO  
THE SITE OF  
SHISHIO'S  
LAIR?!

!!

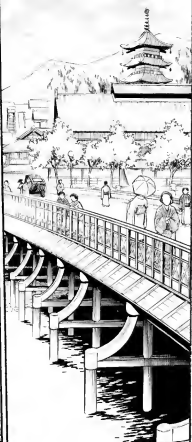


...MOUNT  
HIEI.













...WHAT  
SHISHIO  
MAKOTO  
LOOKED  
LIKE.

YEAH, BUT  
I NEVER  
EVEN SAW...

YOU TOOK ON  
ONE OF THE  
JUPPON-  
GATANA.  
DIDN'T YOU?

DON'T PUT  
YOURSELF  
DOWN.

I ONLY  
WANTED...

I HAD TO  
JUST STAND  
BY AND  
WATCH.







**CHEER-ERIP**

BUT LISTEN  
TO ME—AS A  
DOCTOR, I CAN  
TELL YOU THAT  
HE'S MORTAL, JUST  
LIKE THE REST  
OF US.

**CHEER-ERIP**

YOU ALL  
SEEM TO THINK  
KENSIN IS SOME  
INVINCIBLE  
DEMIGOD WHO'LL  
ALWAYS BE  
FINE.



YOU ACT LIKE  
THERE'S THIS  
ENDLESS FUTURE,  
BUT THERE MAY  
NOT EVEN BE  
ONE!

**KLAK**

YOU THINK  
A MERE  
"THANK YOU"  
IS ENOUGH?

THERE  
WON'T?



AND IT WASN'T  
JUST LAST  
MONTH THAT  
HE STARTED  
FIGHTING,  
EITHER.

HIS WOUNDS  
MAY HEAL, YES,  
BUT AS THEY  
ADD UP, THEY  
TAKE THEIR TOLL  
ON HIS BODY.



BUT NEXT  
TIME MAY  
WELL BE  
HIS LAST!!

HE  
SURVIVED  
THIS  
BATTLE—

AND HE  
MAY LOOK  
HEALTHY  
NOW—

...WHERE  
NOTHING  
HAS  
CHANGED  
A BIT.

HERE  
IS ONE  
PLACE...

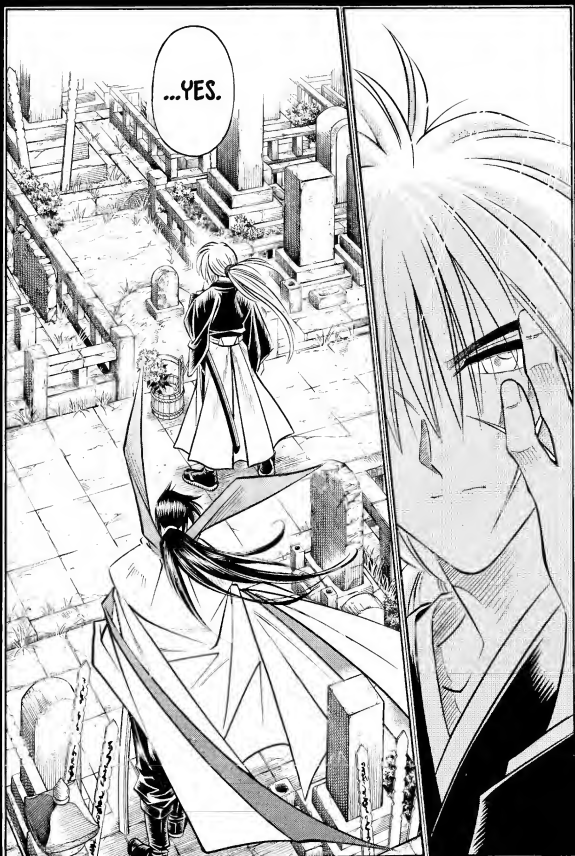
Hy  
o  
o  
o  
o  
o  
H!

IS  
THAT...







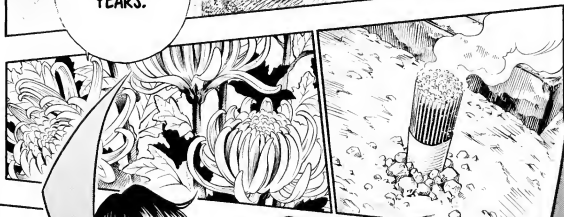


# Rurouni Kenshin



# Act 150—Kyoto Epilogue

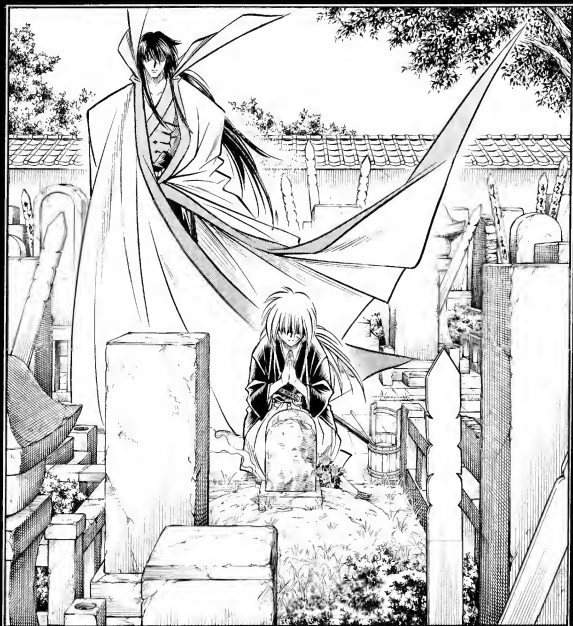
## Early Summer Day



TEN  
YEARS OF  
NEGLECT...

WHY  
DO YOU  
SUDDENLY  
VISIT  
TODAY?





**Act 150**  
**Kyoto Epilogue**  
**Early Summer Day**





BUT,  
ONCE  
IT WAS  
OVER...

WHEN I  
WAS UP  
AGAINST THAT  
JUPPONGATANA  
BAT-GUY...

I HAD  
NO IDEA  
WHAT WAS  
GOING ON.

...MY  
HEAD  
CLEARED,  
AND I  
THOUGHT...



IF YOU  
THINK MIGHT  
MAKES RIGHT,  
YOU'RE  
THINKING LIKE  
SHISHIO.

THAT MEANS  
OUR WAY  
IS RIGHT,  
RIGHT?

WHAT'S  
RIGHT WILL  
BE RECORDED  
IN HISTORY  
AND PASSED  
ON TO LATER  
GENERATIONS.  
WE CAN DO  
THIS KEEP  
BELIEVING  
IN.

I WAS  
STILL...  
...SUCH  
A DAMN  
KID.



"I'M  
STRONG!!"

"I WON!"

GNG

BUT  
THEN,  
HE...



I  
DESERVED  
TO BE  
LEFT OUT.

ENOUGH  
PITY-  
PARTY.

*Boot.*

THAT  
HURT,  
YOU—!!

LOOK.  
WHAT I  
DIDN'T COME  
HERE TO  
DO...

...WAS  
LISTEN  
TO YOUR  
WHINING.



...IS  
WHERE  
IT ALL  
HAPPENED.

...THIS...



SO HE  
WENT  
OUT A  
WINNER.

...NO.  
THE WAY  
HE'D SEE  
IT, I  
WON.

HARD TO  
BELIEVE  
THE GUY  
IS DEAD.

BUT HE  
COULDN'T  
SURVIVED  
THIS.



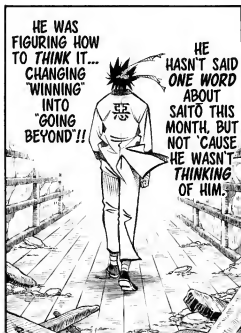
HE CAME  
HERE FOR  
SAITO'S  
BODY...!

...

I  
SURVIVED.  
HE LOST  
TO THE  
EXPLOSION.







HE CAME TO  
LET GO OF  
HIS LOST  
DUEL.



I CAN  
PUSH  
MYSELF,  
HARD AS  
I CAN.

I CAN MOVE  
BEYOND BEING  
SOME DUMB  
KID!!

IF HE  
CAN DO  
IT, SO  
CAN I!

676



HEY!  
WHERE YOU  
GOIN'?!

THAT  
WAY, I CAN  
COME EVEN  
CLOSER TO  
KENSIN—

CLOSER  
TO BOTH  
THESE  
GREAT  
MEN!

TRYIN'  
TO DITCH  
ME, HUH?!



...WHO  
KNOWS.  
I SURE  
DON'T.

AS FOR  
WHAT IS  
NEXT...



KEN-SAN  
MAY NOT  
LIKE  
FIGHTING...

...BUT...

...IF  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS  
HAPPENS  
AGAIN...

...HE WON'T  
THINK *TWICE*  
ABOUT CHARGING  
INTO BATTLE, NO  
MATTER *WHAT*  
CONDITION  
HE'S IN.

TP

CHEE-  
ERUP



WELL.

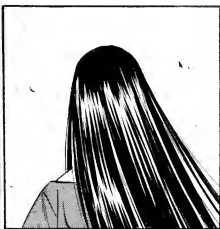


AND,  
SOMEDAY...

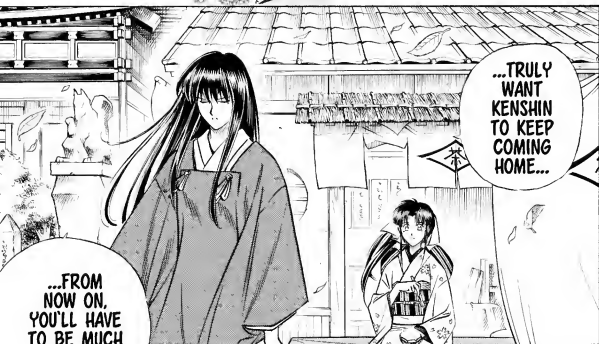


MY OWN  
FEELINGS  
ASIDE, IT  
MUST BE  
SAID.

IF  
YOU...



...WELL...?



...FROM  
NOW ON,  
YOU'LL HAVE  
TO BE MUCH  
STRONGER.

...TRULY  
WANT  
KENSHIN  
TO KEEP  
COMING  
HOME...





NONE OF US HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE ANOTHER'S FATE.

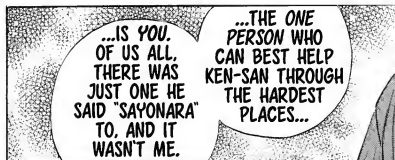
KENSHIN IS THE GREATEST OF SWORDSMEN, AND HE WON'T BE BEATEN EASILY.

...AND, SO LONG AS HE HAS US TO THINK OF, HE WON'T THROW AWAY HIS LIFE.

CHEE-ERUP

CHEE-ERUP

NATURALLY, THE WILL TO LIVE IS THE GREATEST AID TO SURVIVAL...



...IS YOU. OF US ALL, THERE WAS JUST ONE HE SAID "SAYONARA" TO, AND IT WASN'T ME.

...THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN BEST HELP KEN-SAN THROUGH THE HARDEST PLACES...

AND YET...

IF YOU EVER SHOW THAT KIND OF WEAKNESS AGAIN...

...KEN-SAN OR NO, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.





...YES...

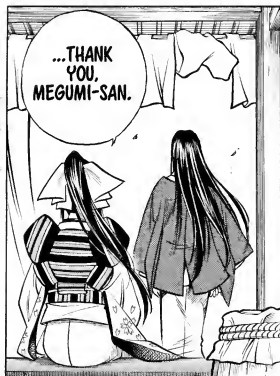
BUT STILL...  
THANK YOU.

AND  
ALSO...  
I'M  
SORRY.



CHK

THAT'S  
ALL I  
HAVE TO  
SAY.

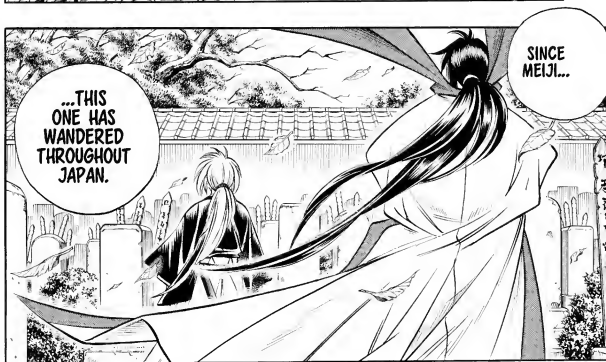
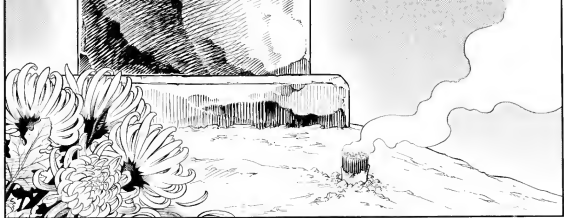


...THANK  
YOU,  
MEGUMI-SAN.



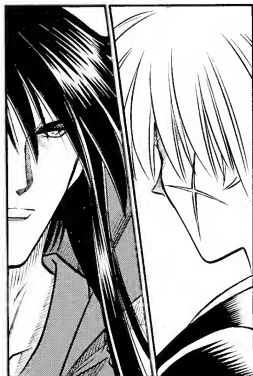
I'M ONLY  
SAYING IT  
FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
KEN-SAN.

DON'T  
THANK ME.  
I DIDN'T  
SAY IT  
FOR YOU.



...THIS  
ONE HAS  
WANDERED  
THROUGHOUT  
JAPAN.

SINCE  
MEIJI...



TO AVOID  
UNDESIRE  
COMPLICATION,  
THIS ONE  
HAS STAYED  
AWAY.

BUT KYOTO  
IS THE ONE  
PLACE WHERE  
TOO MANY  
REMEMBER  
HIM.

IS THAT  
THE ONLY  
REASON?

...



KYOTO  
IS A CITY  
STILL HAUNTED  
BY THE  
MEMORIES...

...OF  
HITOKIRI  
BATTŌSAI, AND  
THOSE HE  
KILLED.

MEMORIES  
BEST LEFT  
BEHIND.



AND  
YET...



AND  
YET—...





LET'S GO  
TOGETHER...

...BACK  
TO  
TOKYO.



...AT  
LAST...



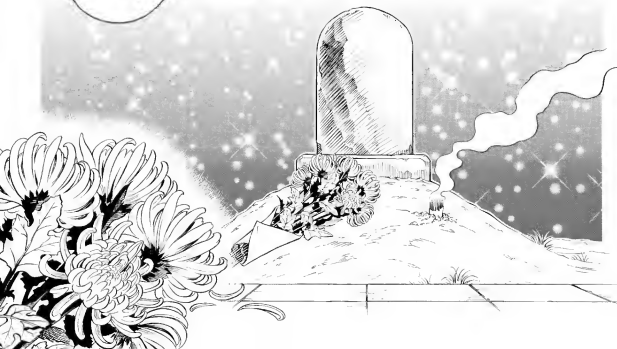
...THIS ONE  
KNEW IT WAS  
TIME  
TO OFFER  
FLOWERS TO  
THIS GRAVE.



THEN  
IF YOU'RE  
THROUGH...  
GO HOME  
TO TOKYO.



SIGH







ORO?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
FOUR  
DOING  
HERE?



TP

YES?

KENSHIN!!

THERE  
WAS A  
FRIEND'S  
GRAVE  
TO VISIT.



WELL,  
AS YOU  
CAN SEE...

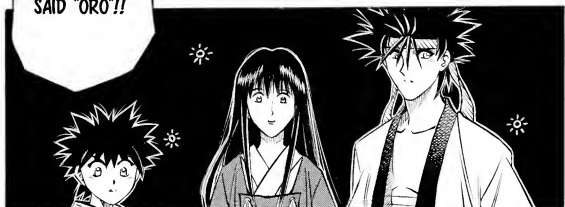
ORO?

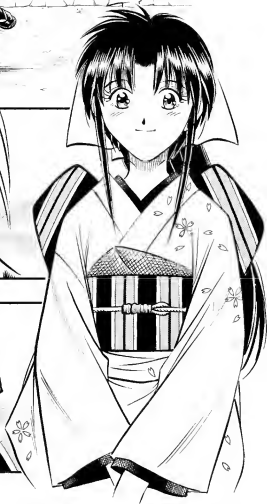


NOT  
THAT IT  
MATTERS...

...BUT  
WHERE'VE  
YOU  
BEEN ALL  
MORNING  
?!







# Rurouni Kenshin



# Act 151—Kyoto Epilogue In the Blue Sky







**Act 151—Kyoto Epilogue**

**In the Blue Sky**





DON'T BOTHER.

AND YOU SHOULD COME TO TOKYO, MISAO-CHAN!



NEXT TIME, WE'LL REALLY HAVE FUN.

COME BACK TO KYOTO SOON!



NO.

OKINA-DONO, AOSHI IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT.

IS HE AT THE ZEN TEMPLE AGAIN?

YAW-Y-HH... SLEEPY...

I WILL! I PROMISE I WILL!!



...IS THAT SO.



LATELY, HE HASN'T BEEN GOING TO THE TEMPLE— HE'S BEEN PRACTICING HIS ZEN IN THE BACK HALL.

JUST AS ANTI-SOCIALLY AS EVER, I MIGHT ADD.

WE'LL  
BE  
TAKING  
OUR  
LEAVE  
NOW.



MIGHTN'T  
WE  
FIRST...

...SHARE  
A FARE-  
WELL  
DRINK...



AOSHI.



...AH.



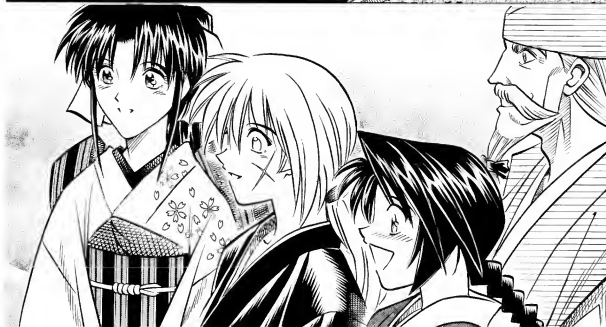
I DON'T  
DRINK.

I  
CAN'T  
HANDLE  
SAKE.

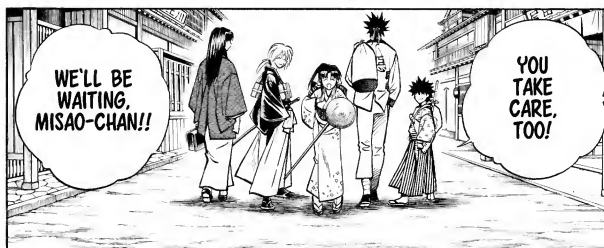


IF  
YOU  
MAKE  
TEA,  
THOUGH  
...

...I WILL  
JOIN  
YOU—  
EVENTUALLY.









...YOU  
SURE  
'BOUT  
THIS?

THEY'LL NEVER  
SHOW IT, BUT  
THEY WORRIED  
OVER YOU.

GLARE

I WAS TOLD  
THEY HAD "NO  
NEED TO KNOW"  
SO I KEPT MY  
MOUTH SHUT,  
BUT...

HE AND I ARE  
DESTINED TO  
BE PULLED INTO  
THE SAME  
BATTLES.

WHEN NEXT  
THAT TIME  
COMES, WE'LL  
MEET AMIDST  
CHAOS.

IS  
THAT  
SO.

THE  
ALLIANCE  
WASN'T MEANT  
TO LAST.

BATTŌSAI  
AND I NEEDED  
EACH OTHER TO  
DESTROY SHISHIO.  
THAT'S ALL.

IF WE  
MEET AS  
ENEMIES,  
I WON'T  
COMPLAIN.

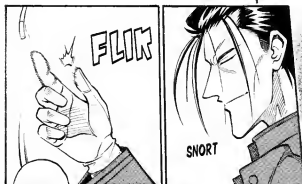
DEEEE

WHEN THAT  
MISSION WAS  
ACCOMPLISHED,  
IT ENDED.



...TO SETTLE  
OUR SCORE  
FROM THE  
BAKUMATSU.

IN THAT  
CASE, I  
WOULDN'T  
HESITATE...



COME.  
LET'S  
GO.

OUR  
NEXT  
MISSION...



...HAS  
ALREADY  
STARTED.



HEH





THIS IS  
OUR LAST  
VIEW FOR  
THE TIME  
BEING.



OH!

OVER  
THERE...



JAB!

HEY  
!!



STUPID.  
PROB'LY  
JUST SMOKE  
FROM A  
FURNACE OR  
SOMETHING.

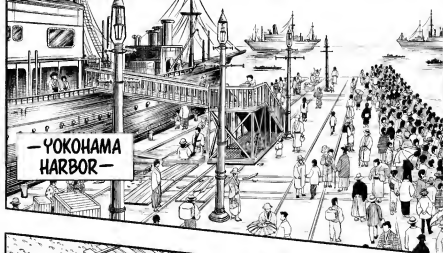
OVER  
THERE! IS  
THAT A  
FIRE?!



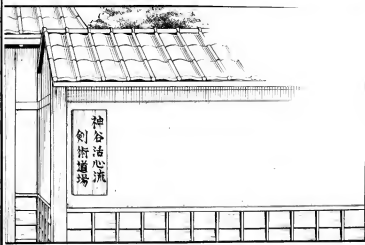
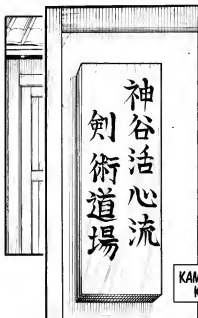
WHEN  
WE  
TURN  
TO  
LOOK  
...

A LOT'S  
HAPPENED  
...

...BUT,  
WHEN WE  
TURN TO  
LOOK...



AND  
SO...



KAMIYA KASSHIN-RYU  
KENJUTSU DOJO

HERE  
THEY  
COME!!

OH!

神谷活心流  
剣術道場

HEY—!



KANSAI  
FOOD'S NOT  
BAD...BUT  
NOTHING  
BEATS A  
KANTO  
GYUNABE  
BEEF  
HOT-POT!

DASH



WE'VE  
AKABEKO  
FOOD  
ALREADY  
INSIDE.



AND YET,  
SOMEHOW,  
HERE WE  
ARE AGAIN.  
AS THOUGH  
MEANT  
TO BE.

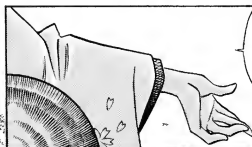
...THIS  
ONE  
ABAN-  
DONED HIS  
RUROUNI  
IDENTITY  
THREE  
MONTHS  
AGO.

FEARING  
THE  
BATTOSAI  
WITHIN...  
AND NOT  
WANTING  
TO DRAG  
OTHERS  
INTO  
DANGER...



IT'S  
JUST...

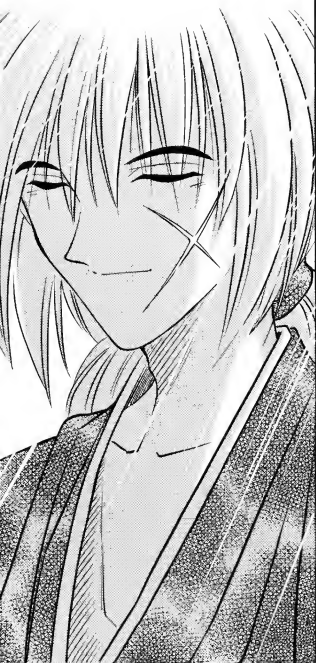
...SOME-  
THING  
WRONG?



KENSHIN.



WELCOME  
HOME.



IT'S  
GOOD  
TO BE  
HOME.



## “FREE TALK”〈PART I〉

Long time no see, Watsuki here. It's been getting colder lately—and I *like* the cold—so I've started shifting into gear. Or...so I thought, but now here it is, the end of the year. My life's passing by at lightning speed.

"In the Blue Sky," the title of the final episode in the Kyoto Arc, was borrowed from the BGM of Temjin's stage in "Den'nō Senki Virtual On." I used it because of the blue sky in the last scene, but also because this BGM (or, I should say, the arranged version from the soundtrack) is a piece that perfectly fits my image of the *Kenshin* Kyoto episodes. In that Watsuki listened to it over and over while writing—especially during the "Kenshin vs. Shishio" scenes—it seemed the ideal closing title. Also, as many of you may have noticed, that last (manga) scene came from the final (anime) scene of the original TV series opening. I'd been planning to wrap up the Kyoto episodes with "It's good to *be* home," but there I was, struggling with the scene, and then I saw *that*, and thought, "This is it."

So, the Kyoto Arc is finally over. I'd planned to stretch it out over a year, but once the ideas started, it ended up going over two. It all paid off in the end, though, as it *was* a turning point, bringing my thinking processes and abilities as a manga artist up two or three levels. Those of you who supported me, thank you very much. Please continue to do so!

And now for the silliness, starting with games. "Polygon Samurai Spirits": At the time of this writing, the release date is still unknown. Waiting for it is hard, but for something this much fun, I guess I'll tough it out. "*Gekka no Kenshi* (The Last Blade)," on the other hand, has been coming into focus...no! Let's *not talk* about it, let's *play* it! Incidentally, Watsuki's favorite character—or so he anticipates—is Washizuka Kei'chirō (heh). As said in the previous volume, I hope they sharpen each other, both developing into great games.

To be honest, I've been so busy lately that I haven't played much of anything. I *did* play "TenSamu" on the NeoGeo CD so much that the stick broke, though. (Now I have to wait to buy a replacement.) I'm not really a gamer, so I can't say I'm experiencing withdrawal, but there are good days, and there are bad days....





Act 152  
Cross-Shaped Sear

IT'S  
BEEN TEN  
YEARS SINCE  
I LEFT  
JAPAN...

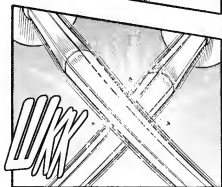
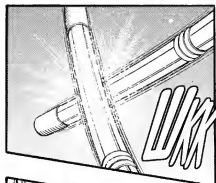
BONN



**Act 152**  
**Cross-**  
**Shaped**  
**Scar**







HOW CAN YOU TWO EVEN DO THAT IN THIS HEAT?!

UM...

WSH

WSH

NGYOOH !!

WSH



I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GONNA TEACH HITEN MITSURUGI-RYU.

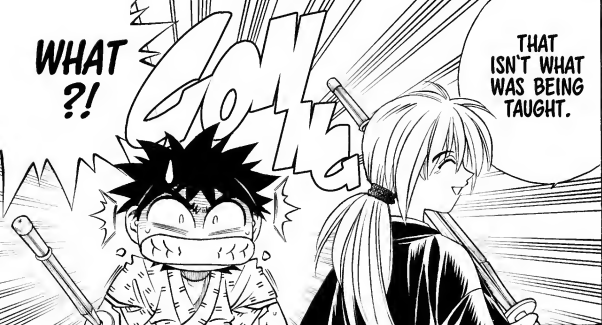
HEH

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU GIVING THE KID A LESSON BEFORE...

WSH

WHAT  
?!

THAT  
ISN'T WHAT  
WAS BEING  
TAUGHT.

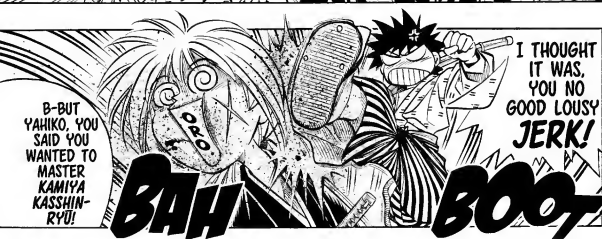


B-BUT  
YAHIKO, YOU  
SAID YOU  
WANTED TO  
MASTER  
KAMIYA  
KASSHIN-  
RYU!

I THOUGHT  
IT WAS,  
YOU NO  
GOOD LOUSY  
**JERK!**

**BAH**

**BOO**



YOU  
WANNA BEAT  
KENSIN, YOU'RE  
GONNA HAVE  
TO DO IT  
WITH KAMIYA  
KASSHIN-RYU.

YOU  
LOSE,  
YAHIKO...

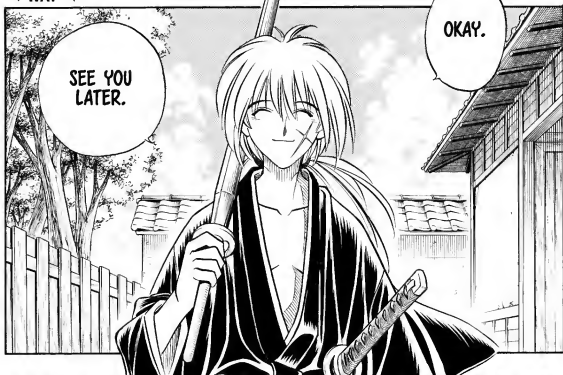


WAS  
THAT  
WRONG?

ALL  
THIS ONE  
WANTED  
WAS TO  
HELP.







SEE YOU  
LATER.

OKAY.



BUT ORO?  
THERE'S  
YOKAN  
CHILLING  
IN THE  
WELL...

SOUNDS  
GOOD...



GUESS I'LL  
START HEADING  
OUT, TOO.

FSH

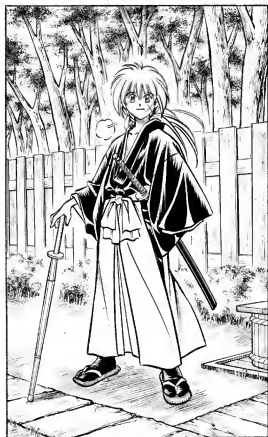


THE VIXEN'LL  
NEVER SHUT  
UP IF I'M  
LATE.

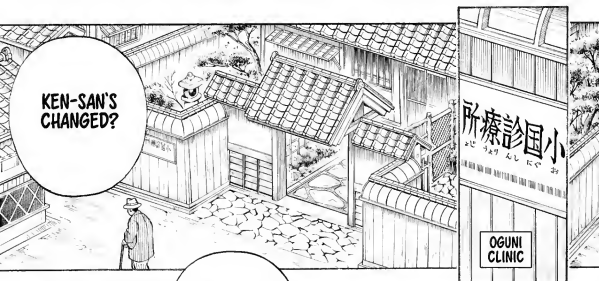
BUT IT'S  
TIME FOR  
ANOTHER  
MEDICAL  
EXAM.



...









NEVER  
CLOSER  
THAN HE  
MUST.

...SO HE  
COULD LEAVE  
AT ANY TIME.  
HE'S A  
RUROUNI,  
AFTER ALL.



AND HE'D  
NEVER STEP  
PAST IT  
TOWARD  
US.

TILL NOW,  
HE'D ALWAYS  
BE SMILING,  
BUT THERE  
WAS STILL  
ALWAYS  
THIS WALL  
AROUND  
HIM.



BUT, SINCE WE  
CAME BACK  
FROM KYOTO,  
HE'S BEEN DOING  
IT NEAR EVERY  
DAY!

WHICH IS  
WHY HE'D  
NEVER HELP  
YAHIKO WITH HIS  
TRAINING.



...IT'S  
FINE.

...UH, SORRY.  
MY MOUTH  
KINDA  
RUNS AWAY  
WITH ME,  
AT TIMES.



ALMOST  
LIKE...SHE'S  
MORE  
NATURAL WITH  
HIM NOW.

LIKE  
THEY'RE  
A  
COUPLE.



REALLY.

AND,  
MAYBE 'CAUSE  
SHE CAN  
SENSE IT, THE  
GIRL DOESN'T  
SEEM AS  
WORRIED AS  
BEFORE.

READ  
THIS  
WAY



HUH.

IF  
KEN-SAN  
IS HAPPY...

...THAT'S  
ALL I  
NEED.



I  
WONDER.

...YOU  
THINK?



ALL I  
EVER SAY  
ARE NICE  
THINGS...  
IDIOT!

WHAT'S WITH  
THOSE EARS?!

YOU DO  
SAY NICE  
THINGS,  
FROM TIME  
TO TIME.



WHAT?!  
YOU MEAN  
I STILL  
HAVE  
TO-?!

YOU'RE  
DONE FOR  
NOW. COME  
BACK IN  
TEN DAYS.

IF "KEN-SAN"  
COULD SEE HOW  
YOU LOOK NOW,  
THOUGH, I DON'T  
THINK HE'D BE  
QUITE SO HAPPY  
OVER THERE.

LOOKS  
LIKE YOU'VE  
CHANGED  
SOME, TOO.



SPEAKING  
OF WOUNDS...  
I'VE BEEN  
WONDERING  
ABOUT THAT  
**CROSS-SHAPED**  
**SCAR** OF  
KENSIN'S.



SEEING  
AS IT'S SO  
OLD, WHY IS  
IT STILL SO  
VIVID?



TSK.  
QUACK.

THAT  
HAND IS  
MORE BADLY  
INJURED  
THAN ANY  
PART OF  
KEN-SAN.

DON'T  
COMPLAIN  
WHEN I'M  
SEEING  
YOU FOR  
FREE.

THAT  
"TWO  
LAYERS"  
NONSENSE  
RUINED  
YOUR  
HAND!!

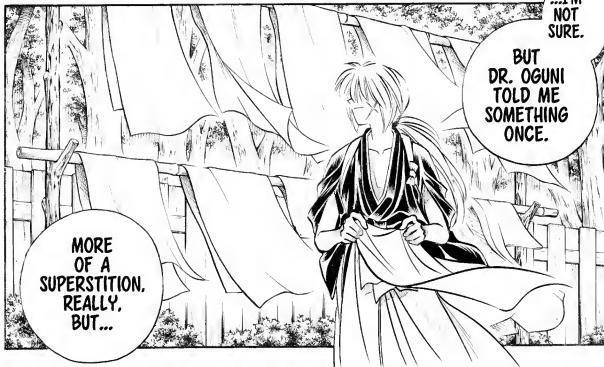
WHO'S  
A  
QUACK  
?!



...I'M  
NOT  
SURE.

BUT  
DR. OGUNI  
TOLD ME  
SOMETHING  
ONCE.

MORE  
OF A  
SUPERSTITION,  
REALLY,  
BUT...

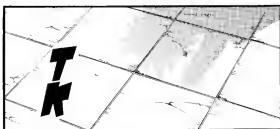
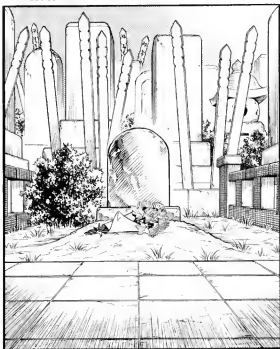


...NOT  
TILL THE  
GRUDGE  
IS  
SETTLED.

...WILL  
NEVER  
GO  
AWAY...

...SWORD  
WOUNDS  
MADE  
WITH  
STRONG  
GRUDGES...



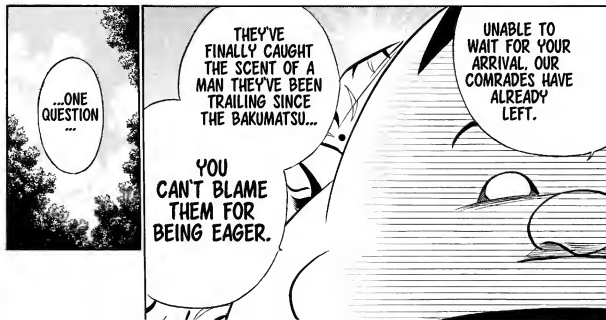


— KYOTO —





IT  
SEEMS THE  
NEWS OF  
BATTŌSAI  
COMING TO  
KYOTO WAS  
TRUE.



DOES  
HE STILL  
BEAR THE  
CROSS-SHAPED  
SCAR ON HIS  
LEFT CHEEK?



AH.

SO  
IT IS  
STILL  
THERE.



I DID  
NOT SEE  
IT WITH  
MY OWN  
EYES...

...BUT,  
FROM WHAT  
SHISHIO'S MEN  
SAY, IT  
WOULD  
SEEM  
SO.





BIG  
SISTER...

...YOUR  
GRUDGE  
AGAINST  
HIM LIVES  
STILL.



BY ALL  
MEANS.



TOKYO...

LET'S  
HURRY,  
SHALL  
WE...

...GEIN?

TK

TK



CHEE-  
ERUP

# Rurouni Kenshin





Act 153

## The One-Handed Man

## Act 153—The One-Handed Man





ULP...



KENSHIN...

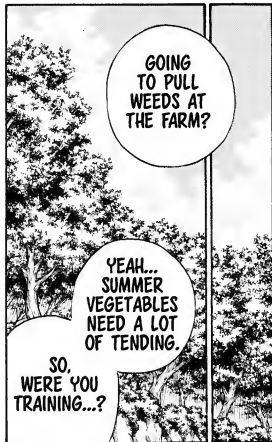
SO  
EARLY...?





**W  
U  
M  
P**

**YEEEEK!!!**



GOING  
TO PULL  
WEEDS AT  
THE FARM?

YEAH...  
SUMMER  
VEGETABLES  
NEED A LOT  
OF TENDING.

SO,  
WERE YOU  
TRAINING...?

TSUBAME-  
DONO?

UH...

...H'ELLO...



BUT IT'S  
A SECRET,  
ALL RIGHT?

HUH?

**TK TK TK**

NOT EXACTLY.  
MORE LIKE  
PULLING SENSES  
TOGETHER TO  
KEEP THE NERVES  
FROM BECOMING  
DULL.

**TK TK TK**



NO NEED  
TO HIDE.  
BUT NO  
NEED TO  
TELL.



BUT  
DON'T ALL  
SWORDSMEN  
TRAIN THEIR  
MINDS?  
THERE'S  
NO NEED  
TO HIDE—



...BUT  
IF THAT'S  
HOW YOU  
WANT  
IT...

...WELL...  
I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND...



THIS ONE  
HOPES HE  
DIDN'T  
FRIGHTEN  
YOU.

DEEPEST  
APOLOGIES

PFT

BUT NOW  
THAT HE HAS  
DECLARED  
THIS HIS HOME,  
IT WOULD BE  
BETTER THAT  
THE OTHERS  
NOT KNOW.



THIS  
ONE'S SOUL  
DARKENS  
UNLESS HE  
IGNITES HIS  
SENSES  
EVERY  
ONCE IN  
A WHILE.

THE  
SWORD AND  
DESTRUCTION  
ARE WOVEN  
TIGHTLY  
TOGETHER,  
AND THIS  
SWORDSMAN  
STRUGGLES TO  
SEPARATE  
THEM.





OH YEAH...  
WE'RE  
MEETING AT  
AKABEKO  
AT 5:00...  
...THEN GOING  
TO ASAKUSA.  
PLEASE  
DON'T FORGET!

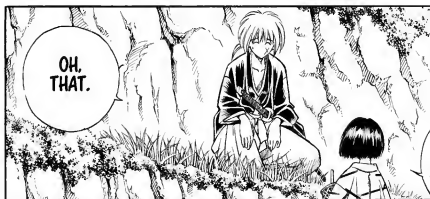


ORO?



THE  
ROAD  
LIES  
THIS  
WAY.

OH.  
THANKS  
FOR  
CARRYING  
MY THINGS.



OH.  
THAT.

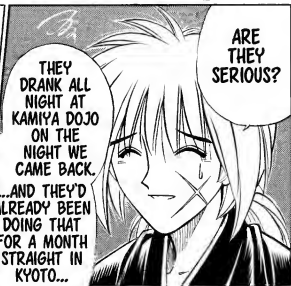
IT'S A  
GOOD-LOOK  
PARTY FOR  
EVERYBODY.

YOU  
DIDN'T  
HEAR ABOUT  
IT?



HE SAYS  
YOU CAN'T  
HAVE TOO  
MANY HAPPY  
OCCASIONS.

IT WAS  
SANOSUKE'S  
IDEA.



ARE  
THEY  
SERIOUS?

THEY  
DRANK ALL  
NIGHT AT  
KAMIYA DOJO  
ON THE  
NIGHT WE  
CAME BACK.  
...AND THEY'D  
ALREADY BEEN  
DOING THAT  
FOR A MONTH  
STRAIGHT IN  
KYOTO...

THE  
SWORDSMAN  
YAHIKO  
ADMIRE  
MOST IN  
THE WORLD...

BUT MAYBE  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
THIS ONE  
CAN LEARN  
FROM HIM.

...OR TOO  
MUCH FREE  
FOOD,  
KNOWING  
HIM.

WILL YAHIKO  
BE LIKE  
HIM WHEN  
HE GROWS  
UP...?



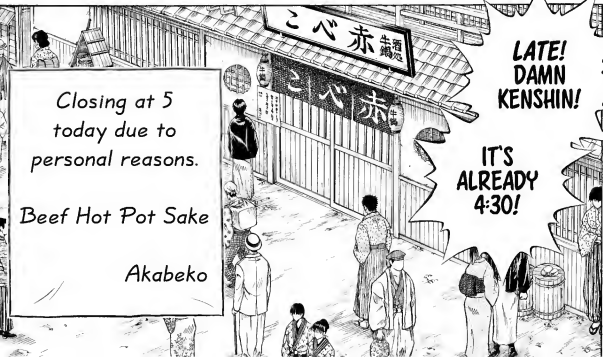
*Closing at 5  
today due to  
personal reasons.*

*Beef Hot Pot Sake*

*Akabeko*

**LATE!  
DAMN  
KENSIN!**

**IT'S  
ALREADY  
4:30!**





THERE'S STILL HALF AN HOUR! AND AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS LATE EVERYWHERE ELSE?!

SO WHAT?

NOBODY EXPECTS ME TO BE ON TIME!



FAR FROM IT!

MAYBE THE HEAT'S SLOWING HIM DOWN.



NO. I CAME STRAIGHT FROM OUTSIDE TRAINING.

YOU TWO WEREN'T TOGETHER TODAY?



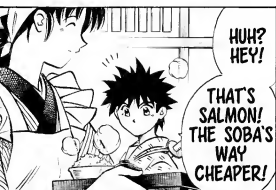
YOU TWO WERE FINALLY DOING WELL.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT.











...BUT I'LL  
GLADLY  
ACCEPT  
YOUR  
GENEROSITY,  
MISS.

UM...  
THAT'S  
...

I ASKED FOR  
THE CHEAPEST  
MEAL.

OH.

SHE'S  
HAPPIER  
ABOUT THE  
'MISS' PART.

IF YOU  
ASK ME...

PEACE!  
YAY!

\*PHEW\*  
THANK  
GOD!

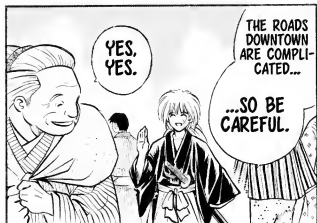
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
IN KYOTO IS  
STILL  
CORRUPTING  
OUR MINDS.

NUG  
NUG

SEE THAT?  
PEOPLE CAN  
UNDERSTAND  
EACH OTHER!

FEH.





YES,  
YES.

THE ROADS  
DOWNTOWN  
ARE COMPLI-  
CATED...

...SO BE  
CAREFUL.



THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH.

I KNOW  
THE WAY  
FROM  
HERE.



NOW...



...IT'S A  
LITTLE  
LATER THAN  
USUAL...

...BUT  
STILL JUST  
IN TIME.



LEAVING  
ALREADY  
...?

HERE'S  
MORE TEA.



I'D HATE  
TO BE A  
NUISANCE.

THE NOTE  
OUTSIDE  
SAYS YOU  
CLOSE AT  
FIVE.



THANKS  
FOR THE  
MEAL.







...WAS  
HITOKIRI  
BATTŌSAI...?

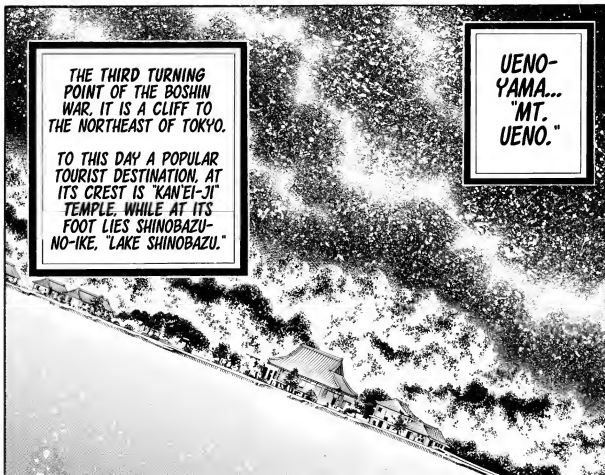
...DID  
HE NOT  
REALIZE  
THIS ONE...

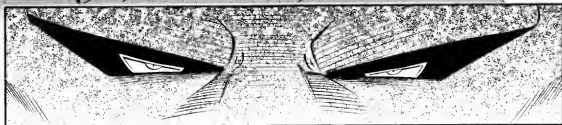


THE THIRD TURNING  
POINT OF THE BOSHIN  
WAR, IT IS A CLIFF TO  
THE NORTHEAST OF TOKYO.

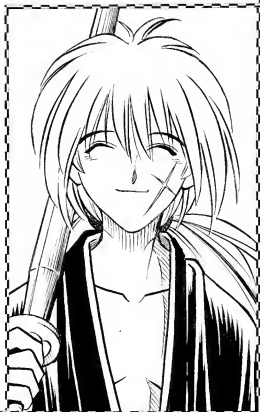
TO THIS DAY A POPULAR  
TOURIST DESTINATION, AT  
ITS CREST IS "KAN'EI-JI"  
TEMPLE, WHILE AT ITS  
FOOT LIES SHINOBAZU-  
NO-IKE, "LAKE SHINOBAZU."

UENO-  
YAMA...  
"MT.  
UENO."





# Rurouni Kenshin



# Act 154

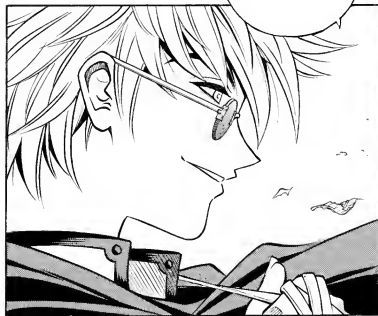
## The Signal Fire of Revenge

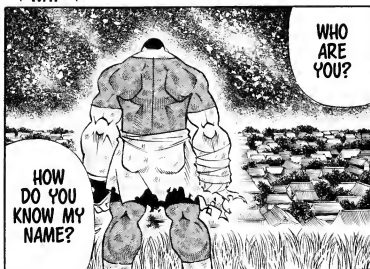






...NICE  
TO MEET YOU,  
KUJIRANAMI-  
SAN.





WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

HOW  
DO YOU  
KNOW MY  
NAME?



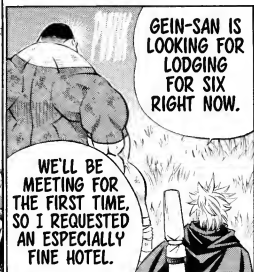
I MADE  
A PROMISE  
TO MEET  
SOMEONE  
HERE.

IF YOU'VE  
GOT NO  
BUSINESS  
WITH ME,  
GET LOST.



NOT  
NUMBER  
SIX.

NUMBER  
ONE, TO BE  
ACCURATE.



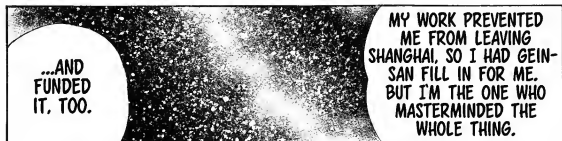
GEIN-SAN IS  
LOOKING FOR  
LODGING  
FOR SIX  
RIGHT NOW.

WE'LL BE  
MEETING FOR  
THE FIRST TIME,  
SO I REQUESTED  
AN ESPECIALLY  
FINE HOTEL.



SO YOU'RE  
"NUMBER SIX"...  
THE ONE FROM  
SHANGHAI THAT  
GEIN HINTED  
ABOUT.

...I  
SEE.



...AND  
FUNDED  
IT, TOO.

MY WORK PREVENTED  
ME FROM LEAVING  
SHANGHAI, SO I HAD GEIN-  
SAN FILL IN FOR ME.  
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO  
MASTERMINDED THE  
WHOLE THING.



BUT  
THERE IS  
NO MASTER  
IN THIS  
GROUP.

WE ARE  
COMRADES  
GATHERED FOR  
THE SAME  
GOAL.



...IT  
WAS A  
NICE  
PLACE.

I WAS  
ABLE TO  
EAT LIKE A  
HUMAN BEING  
FOR A  
CHANGE.



...THEN  
...

...SHALL  
WE CALL  
THIS OFF?

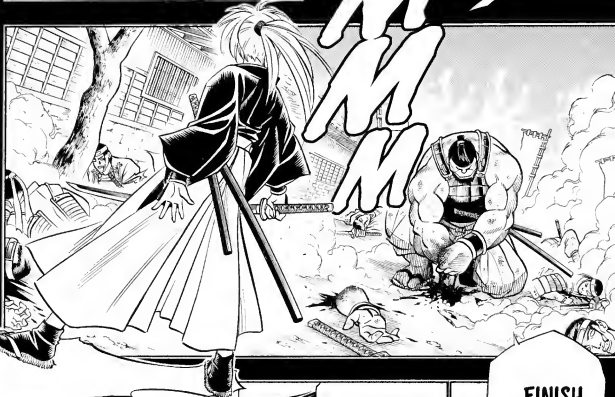


SO.  
HOW WAS  
AKABEKO?

GEIN-SAN'S  
RESEARCH  
SUGGESTED  
THAT IT HOLDS  
SOME LINK  
TO HIMURA  
BATTOSAI.



**TM**



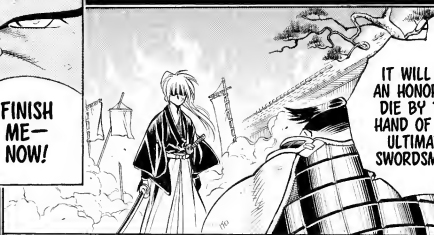
FROM NOW ON,  
WAR WILL BE  
FOUGHT NOT  
WITH SWORDS  
BUT FIREARMS  
THAT REQUIRE  
NEITHER SOUL  
NOR SKILL.

THE VICTORY  
OF THE  
PATRIOTS AT  
TOBA FUSHIMI  
IS INEVITABLE.

...FINISH  
ME.



FINISH  
ME—  
NOW!



IT WILL BE  
AN HONOR TO  
DIE BY THE  
HAND OF THE  
ULTIMATE  
SWORDSMAN!

I DON'T  
WANT TO SEE  
SUCH TIMES.  
I WANT TO  
DIE A  
WARRIOR.

I WILL NOT  
KILL ANY MORE  
THAN I NEED  
TO.

...SORRY.

**TP**

YOU  
MUST  
LIVE...  
...IN  
THE NEW  
ERA.

**BATTŌSAI!  
STOP!**

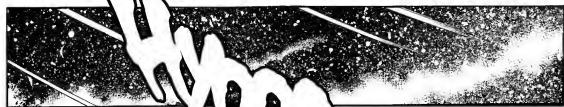
WILL YOU  
ALSO ROB  
ME OF A  
WARRIOR'S  
DEATH?!  
**BATTŌSAI  
!!!**

YOU  
PATRIOTS  
HAVE ALREADY  
ROBBED ME  
OF MY PRIDE  
AND MY  
WORLD!



**NO!**

**BATTOSAI  
-!!!**

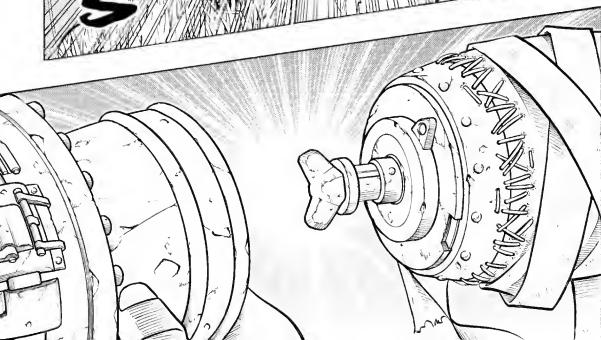


THE  
DISTANCE  
IS BARELY  
WITHIN THE  
LIMIT.

WHAT  
IF YOU  
FAIL...?

IT'S  
GETTING  
WINDY.









**WILL  
NOT  
FAIL!!!!**

**KUJIRANAMI  
HYŌGO,  
THE  
"WEAPON-  
BODY"—**

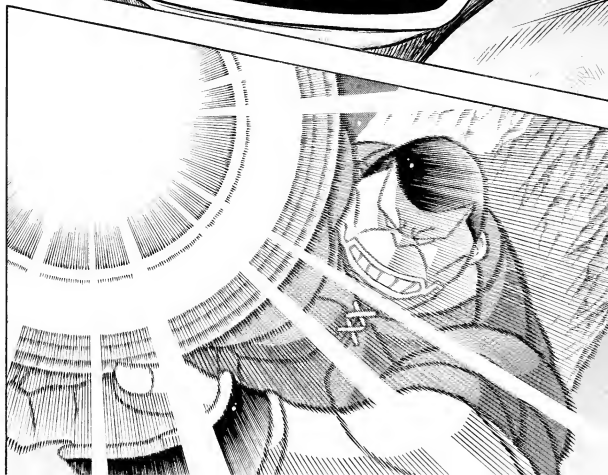


WITH YOUR  
NEW RIGHT  
ARM...

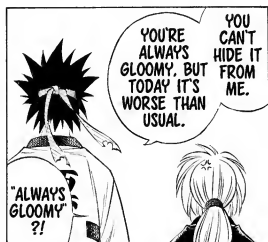
I'M  
COUNTING  
ON YOU,  
KUJIRANAMI-  
SAN.

...THE  
BEGINNING  
OF  
REVENGE.

...IGNITE  
THE FIRE  
THAT  
SIGNALS...



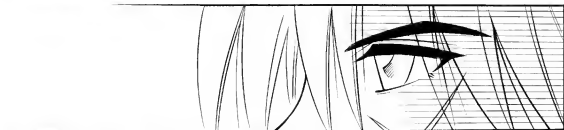




BUT IF  
YOU START  
TREATING ME  
LIKE A  
LIABILITY  
AGAIN...

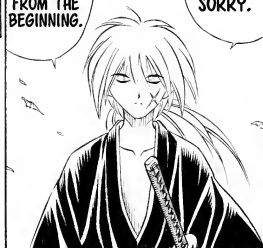
...I'LL BREAK  
YOUR MOUTH  
OPEN WITH  
MY FISTS.

I DON'T  
MIND YOU  
HIDING IT  
FROM THE  
WOMEN...



YOU  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
KNOWN  
FROM THE  
BEGINNING.

YES...  
THIS ONE  
IS  
SORRY.

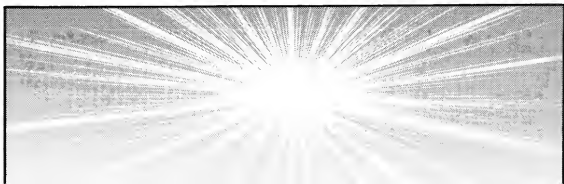






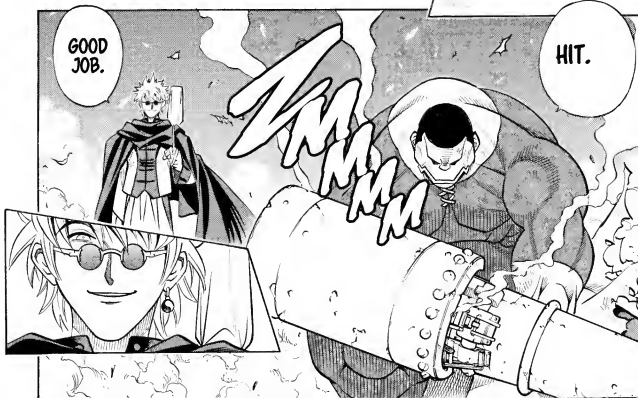
LOOK.

WHERE IN  
THIS BEAUTY  
DO YOU SEE  
A SHADOW  
OF WAR?











...THE  
ARM-  
STRONG  
CANNON  
!!!

牛酒  
赤銅処

# Rurouni Kenshin



伸  
和  
月  
宏

Act 155  
Jinchū

TENCHŪ  
(PUNISHMENT  
FROM HEAVEN)





THE  
SOUNDING  
OF THE  
BELLS!

SO THAT  
THUNDERING  
SOUND  
WAS...









DIDN'T  
YOU HEAR  
THAT  
NOISE?!

CHIEF,  
WHAT IS  
THIS?

LONG TIME  
NO SEE,  
MOUSTACHE.



IT WAS  
CANNON  
FIRE!!

A  
RESTAURANT  
CALLED  
AKABEKO  
SUFFERED A  
DIRECT HIT!!

SOMEONE  
FIRED A SHOT  
AT THE TOWN  
FROM UENO-  
YAMA!



WE'RE  
SURROUNDING  
THE MOUNTAIN  
WITH EVERY  
OFFICER IN  
THE REGION!  
THERE  
MAY BE  
MORE  
SHOTS.  
SO WATCH  
YOURSELVES!





WAIT UP,  
I'M GOING  
TOO!

ACK!

ME  
TOO!

DM

THIS ONE  
IS GOING  
TO  
UENO-YAMA.

EVERYONE  
ELSE  
BACK TO  
AKABEKO!



YAHIKO—!

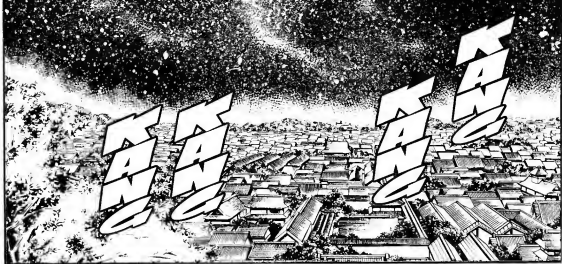
YAHIKO,  
YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
GO!!



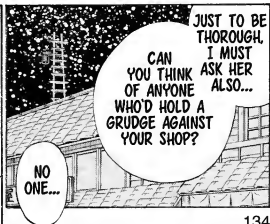
LET'S  
HURRY  
BACK TO  
AKABEKO.

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
WE CAN  
DO.

KAORU-  
CHAN...



...SO...  
CRUEL.





...



A GRUDGE  
SEEMS VERY  
UNLIKELY...

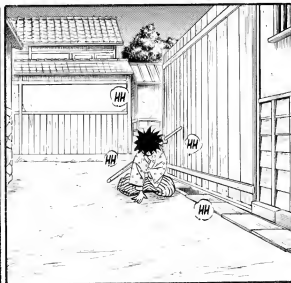
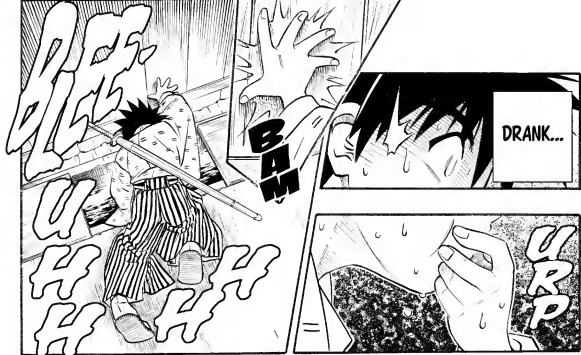
IT'S TRUE.  
AKABEKO IS A  
VERY POPULAR  
BUSINESS...  
EVEN AMONG ITS  
COMPETITORS.



SO...FAST.

OF COURSE  
KENSIN  
WOULD...BUT  
SANOSUKE  
DRANK SO  
MUCH...

THEY  
JUST KEEP  
WIDENING  
THE GAP.





NO SIGN  
OF A  
CANNON  
OR ITS  
MOUNT.

JUST ONE  
FALLEN  
HOLY  
TREE...

...AND FIRED  
WITH IT  
OVER HIS  
SHOULDERS.

HE  
PROBABLY  
PROPPED HIS  
BACK AGAINST  
THE TREE TO  
TAKE THE  
RECOIL...

NO.  
LOOK...

HE WAS  
A GIANT...  
BIGGER  
THAN ANJI,  
EVEN.

SO DO YOU  
THINK IT  
WAS THAT  
WHALE-  
MOUTH?

THIS  
DEEP  
FOOTPRINT.

I FOUND  
IT! THE  
CRIMINAL  
SEEMS TO  
HAVE LEFT  
A NOTE!

HIMURA-  
SAN!

**TP**

HE APPEARED  
AT AKABEKO  
DURING THE  
DAY...AND  
AKABEKO WAS  
DESTROYED  
THE SAME  
NIGHT.

CAN THAT  
BE A  
COINCIDENCE?

BUT HE  
ONLY  
HAD ONE  
HAND!  
  
HOW  
COULD  
HE HIT  
AKABEKO  
FROM HERE  
IN ONE  
SHOT?



人  
心

"JINCHŪ"...

DID THEY  
MEAN TO  
WRITE  
"TENCHŪ"?

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

THEN  
"JINCHŪ"  
WOULD  
MEAN...

IT  
EXPRESSED  
THEIR  
BELIEF  
THAT  
JUSTICE  
LAY IN  
THEIR  
HANDS.

THE ISHIN  
SHISHI, MORE  
SPECIFICALLY  
THE HITOKIRI,  
LIKED TO  
USE THAT  
WORD.

...NO...TENCHŪ  
MEANS  
"JUDGMENT  
FROM THE  
HEAVENS."



"EVEN IF THE HEAVENS WILL NOT CAST JUDGMENT..."

...THEN ONE'S SELF WILL."

A COMPLETELY OPPOSITE VIEW OF JUSTICE.



...NO.

THIS IS  
NOT JUST  
ONE MAN'S  
DOING.

...SO  
IT IS  
THAT  
MAN'S  
DOING.



THE ARMSTRONG  
CANNON ISN'T  
SOMETHING AN  
INDIVIDUAL COULD  
ACQUIRE.



THIS ONE,  
WHO HAS HURT  
AND KILLED MANY  
STILL UNPUNISHED  
BY THE  
HEAVENS...

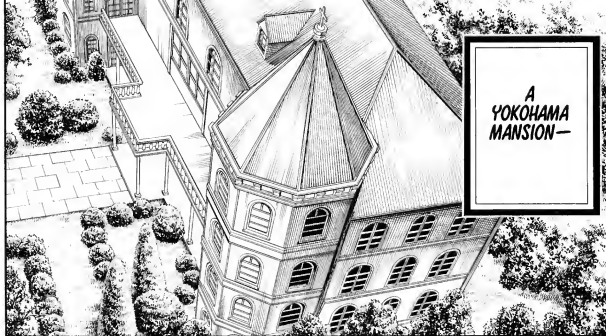
...IS TRAILED  
BY AVENGERS  
WHO SEEK TO  
CAST JUDGMENT  
WITH THEIR  
OWN HANDS.

THERE'S  
NO  
PROOF...

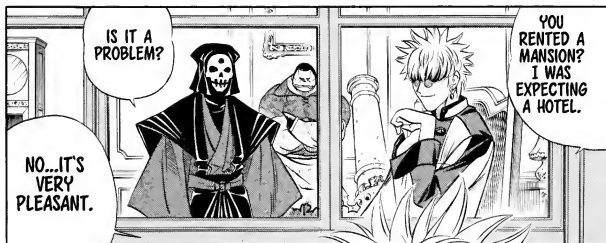
...BUT...







A  
YOKOHAMA  
MANSION—



IS IT A  
PROBLEM?

YOU  
RENTED A  
MANSION?  
I WAS  
EXPECTING  
A HOTEL.

NO...IT'S  
VERY  
PLEASANT.



I SAY  
IT'S TIME  
YOU REVEAL  
YOUR NAME  
NOW.

WHO  
CARES  
WHERE  
WE ARE?

I'D HAVE  
LOATHED  
STAYING  
IN  
TOKYO...  
WITH  
BATTOSAI.

AND I'M  
ESPECIALLY  
HAPPY  
WITH IT  
BEING IN  
YOKOHAMA.





# Rurouni Kenshin





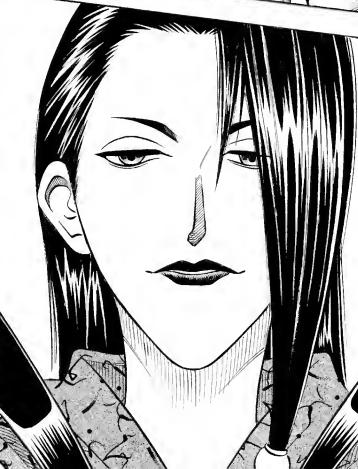
**Act 156—Comrades**



INUI  
BANJIN.

A close-up of Inui Banjin, a character with long, thick, wavy hair and a wide, toothy grin. He is wearing a dark, patterned headband and a light-colored jacket with a buttoned cuff. His hands are clasped in front of him.

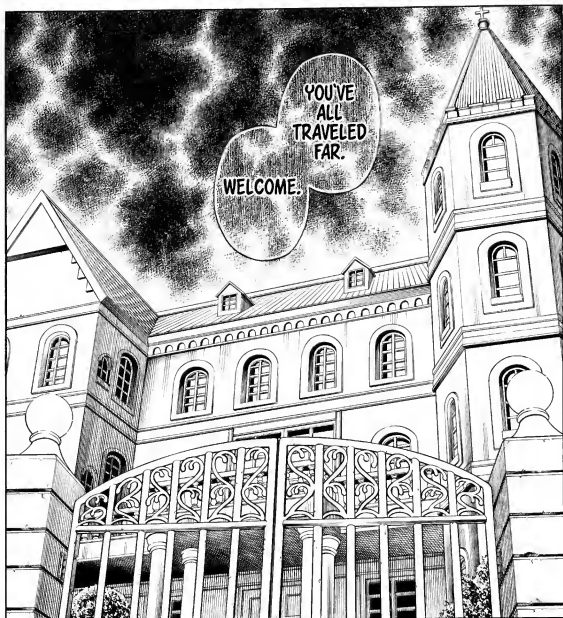
HO.



OTOWA  
HYŌKO.

A close-up of Otowa Hyoko, a character with long, straight black hair and a serious expression. She is wearing a dark, patterned garment. A horizontal line separates her panel from the one above.

GREETINGS.



## Act 156—Comrades





THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
LEFT.

THAT  
MAKES  
FIVE.

PFFT. A  
MAN WHO  
CAN'T SHOW  
UP ON TIME  
CAN'T BE  
TRUSTED.



THAT'S  
SLOPPY.

HE WAS  
TOLD TO  
COME TONIGHT.  
BUT AT NO  
SPECIFIC  
TIME.

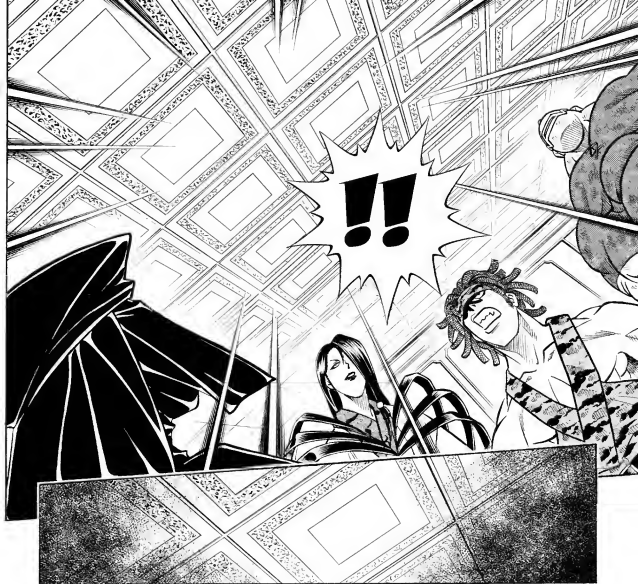


I  
CAN'T  
STAND  
IT.  
ALL  
FOOLS.

WE  
FIVE ARE  
ENOUGH!

BUT...I'M  
ALREADY  
HERE.







I DO  
NOT WISH TO  
REVEAL MY  
APPEARANCE  
BEFORE YOU  
ALL.



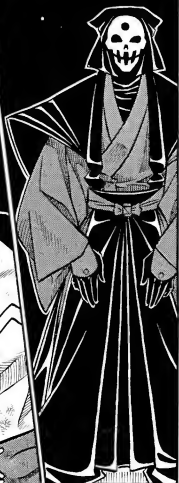
IT'S  
ENOUGH THAT  
ALL WHO SEEK  
REVENGE AGAINST  
HIMURA BATTOSAI  
HAVE GATHERED  
HERE.

IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER.



WE  
ARE...

...THE "SIX  
COMRADES."





"SIX  
COMRADES"...

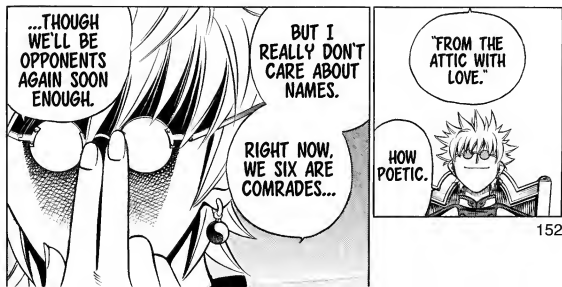
COULDN'T  
YOU THINK  
OF A BETTER  
NAME?

I'M NOT  
DELIGHTED.

OR "GEIN  
AND HIS  
DELIGHTFUL  
COMPANIONS"  
?

HOW ABOUT  
"INUUI AND HIS  
THUGS"?!

HEH



...THOUGH  
WE'LL BE  
OPPONENTS  
AGAIN SOON  
ENOUGH.

BUT I  
REALLY DON'T  
CARE ABOUT  
NAMES.

RIGHT NOW,  
WE SIX ARE  
COMRADES...

"FROM THE  
ATTIC WITH  
LOVE."

HOW  
POETIC.

EVEN IF  
WE MURDER  
HIM TONIGHT,  
WE WILL NOT  
HAVE AVENGED  
OURSELVES  
IF WE ALLOW  
BATTŌSAI TO GO  
ON INSISTING  
THAT HE IS  
"KENSHIN" NOW.

PAT PRESENT,  
BATTŌSAI LIVES  
COMFORTABLY  
IN TOKYO UNDER  
A FALSE  
IDENTITY—  
"KENSHIN."

ONCE THAT IS  
ACCOMPLISHED,  
THE SIX  
COMRADES  
WILL DISBAND.  
THEN, WHOEVER  
GETS TO HIM  
FIRST, CAN  
DELIVER HIS  
JUDGMENT.

OUR STRATEGY  
TODAY MUST BE  
TO CORNER HIM  
AND MAKE HIM  
RECOGNIZE HIS  
CRIMES OF  
THE PAST.

REVENGE  
BEGINS BY  
LETTING THE  
TARGET  
UNDERSTAND  
THE REASONS  
FOR IT.

YOU ALL  
WANT TO BE  
THE ONE TO  
DELIVER THE  
FINAL THRUST,  
YES?





SO  
WHAT  
IS THIS  
STRATEGY?

WHOEVER'S  
STRONGEST...  
GETS TO  
FINISH HIM  
OFF?!

THEN I  
HAVE NO  
OBJECTIONS.

YOU  
MEAN...



...BUT INSTEAD  
OF ME  
DICTATING  
TO YOU  
ALL...

...WE  
WILL EACH  
HAVE EQUAL  
RESPONSIBILITIES.  
IS THAT ALL  
RIGHT, OTOWA-SAN?

I  
ALREADY  
HAVE  
SOMETHING  
IN MIND...



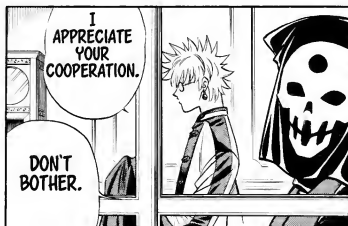
THEN  
LET ME  
EXPLAIN.

FIRST—

I SAID  
I HAVE NO  
OBJECTIONS.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
EXCUSE  
ME.





THAT MOMENT  
CANNOT EASE  
MY HATRED  
OR MY SISTER'S  
REGRETS.

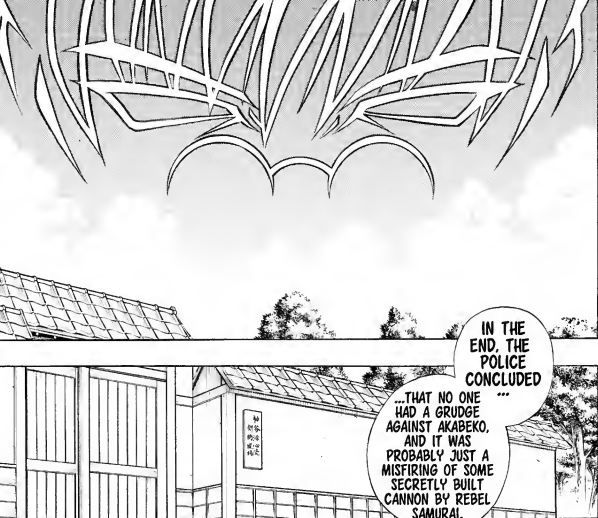
**WASH**

INDEED.

DEATH  
IS ONLY A  
MOMENT OF  
SUFFERING.

THAT  
WILL BE  
YUKISHIRO  
ENISHI'S  
REVENGE  
!!

I WILL PLUNGE  
BATTŌSAI  
INTO THE  
LIVING HELL WE  
HAVE BOTH  
SUFFERED!



IN THE  
END, THE  
POLICE  
CONCLUDED

...THAT NO ONE  
HAD A GRUDGE  
AGAINST AKAPEKO,  
AND IT WAS  
PROBABLY JUST A  
MISFIRING OF SOME  
SECRETLY BUILT  
CANNON BY REBEL  
SAMURAI.



YEAH...  
THE  
SITUATION.

SO  
WHAT  
DO WE  
DO?

DO WE  
TELL THE  
LITTLE MISS  
AND THE  
REST?



PATHETIC!

THEY'RE  
NO USE!

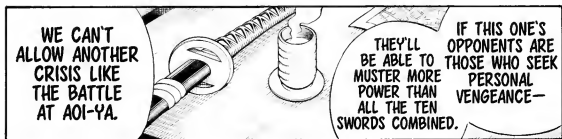
WE CAN'T  
BLAME THEM.  
THEY DON'T  
KNOW THE  
SITUATION.



THE  
BATTLE IN  
KYOTO  
RAISED MANY  
ANXIETIES.

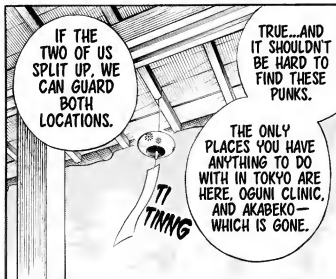
NO  
NEED TO  
ADD TO  
THOSE YET.

NO...  
BETTER  
NOT.



WE CAN'T  
ALLOW ANOTHER  
CRISIS LIKE  
THE BATTLE  
AT AOI-YA.

IF THIS ONE'S  
OPPONENTS ARE  
THOSE WHO SEEK  
PERSONAL  
VENGEANCE—  
THEY'LL  
BE ABLE TO  
MUSTER MORE  
POWER THAN  
ALL THE TEN  
SWORDS COMBINED.



IF THE  
TWO OF US  
SPLIT UP, WE  
CAN GUARD  
BOTH  
LOCATIONS.

TRUE...AND  
IT SHOULDN'T  
BE HARD TO  
FIND THESE  
PUNKS.

THE ONLY  
PLACES YOU HAVE  
ANYTHING TO DO  
WITH IN TOKYO ARE  
HERE, OGUNI CLINIC,  
AND AKABEKO—  
WHICH IS GONE.

TI  
TING



...AN  
INSULT...  
BUT ALSO  
QUITE TRUE.

FOR ONCE,  
YOUR ANTI-  
SOCIAL  
BEHAVIOR  
PAYS  
OFF.



KAORU-DONO  
AND THE  
OTHERS  
WILL BE  
BETTER OFF  
WITHOUT  
KNOWING.

THE  
SEKIHARA  
FAMILY ARE  
MERCHANTS.  
AND SMART  
THEY ONES.  
DIDN'T SIMPLY  
ACCEPT THE  
POLICE'S OPINION...  
THEY'VE HIRED  
THEIR OWN  
SECURITY.

THEY  
SHOULD BE  
FINE FOR  
NOW.

THEY  
MIGHT BE  
TARGETED  
AGAIN...

BUT SHOULDN'T  
WE STILL  
WORRY ABOUT  
TAE AND  
THE GIRL?



TSUBAME-  
DONO  
WILL  
BE—

SSP



!

TPP



KENSHIN—

I'M  
COMING  
IN.

SHH!

HIDE  
THE  
MAP.

SHH!

KENSHIN  
?

ASH

REF

HURRY!



THERE'S NO  
BETTER TOPIC  
FOR SHUTTING  
DOWN  
CONVERSATIONS.

JUST DON'T TRY TO  
MAKE ME LOOK LIKE  
THE ONLY BAD BOY!

SANO—!

JUST  
DON'T TALK  
ABOUT THINGS  
LIKE THAT IN  
FRONT OF YAHIKO  
AND TSUBAME-  
CHAN!

IF YOU  
MUST.

YOUR  
SUGGESTION  
THAT SHE SHOULD  
RECUPERATE AT  
OUR PLACE AFTER  
THE INCIDENT...

...WAS  
AGREED TO BY  
HER FAMILY.  
THEY THANKED  
YOU.

OH YEAH...  
ABOUT  
TSUBAME-  
CHAN...

I'M  
GOING TO  
MEGUMI'S.

RIGHT...

GOOD  
LUCK.

TO HAVE  
MY HAND  
TREATED.

...

GOOD.  
THAT'S A  
RELIEF.

SHE'LL  
COME OVER  
IN THE  
EVENING.

ORO.

A  
RELIEF?!

FOOL!



KNOWING KENSHIN,  
HE'S TRYING TO KEEP  
US FROM WORRYING  
ABOUT SOMETHING,  
BUT...

BUT...



...SOME-  
THING  
IS  
DEFINITELY  
WRONG.

WHAT'S  
HE  
HIDING?



MAYBE I'LL  
GO BEAT ON  
YAHIKO A  
LITTLE BIT.



...

ARGH, THIS  
IS SO  
IRRITATING!



—...



PHEW...





## "FREE TALK" <PART II>

Since I can't play many games, another outlet for my stress is collecting figures. The end of this year saw a flood of them, sending me shrieking in joy! The craftsmanship of McFarlane Toys knows no bounds, and the rest of the toy business is catching up, using its technology too... These aren't figures, but as someone who grew up during the *Gundam* boom, I have to mention Bandai's *Gundam* MG series and the *Eva* LM-HG series plastic models. And then there are the action dolls. No matter how impressive the product is, I have no interest in non-mobile dolls, but the ones that are mobile are a different story. I was really surprised by Takara's *Nako-Rimu* dolls when I bought them. (This is off topic, but my friend, Michimoto Munenori, was surprised too, especially by the quality of the hair.) The garage kit makers are also putting out action dolls, so even though I don't plan to start collecting them (collecting Yo-toys is already too much...) I'm anticipating a revolution in model technology in the future. If this keeps up, the birth of the "action doll with seamless joints" (with a mobile skeleton hidden under a layer of skin) may not be a dream!

Another stress reliever for me is the sunset. The air is clearer in the winter, making it very nice. But I can't get out to watch the sunset with my current schedule, so I'm enjoying the recorded version shown early in the morning. And now they're broadcasting scenery from the train. "Train windows of the world" is nice too, but Watsuki likes more close-to-home scenes like the Yamanote line, or the roads seen from cars driving in the city. I guess I like a "lightly taken night trip." I'm thinking I'll put that into action at the end of the year.

Finally, something serious. "*Rurouni Kenshin*" becomes more of a struggle with every new episode. There is an overall storyline all the way to the end, but I seem to keep getting dragged into the deepness of the story, and I'm not able to control it as much as I wish I could. However, the winter is lightening my spirits and allowing me to recover some. I plan to make a full sprint next year to make up for the shortfall this year. Please support me through next year, toward that happy ending I still promise. (Again, off topic. Michimoto and I share the motto, "Manga artists are DEAD or ALIVE. ALL or NOTHING"... ) See you in the next volume!



Act 157  
**Yahiko's  
Desperation**

TEACH  
YOU  
KAMIYA  
KASSHIN-  
RYU'S—

—SECRET!?

**T  
P**



I BESEECH  
YOU AS  
A MAN!!

PLEASE!!

**HA!**





**Act 157**  
**Yahiko's**  
**Desperation**



I  
MEANT  
ME, NOT  
YOU!!

DON'T  
BE SO  
LITERAL  
!!

WHO  
ARE YOU  
CALLING  
A MAN?!

IS THAT  
HOW YOU  
ASK FOR  
SOMETHING  
?!

ARE YOU  
GONNA  
TEACH ME  
OR NOT?!

YOWL!

NOW  
COME  
ON!!



YOU THINK  
ALL YOU  
HAVE TO  
LEARN IS  
NEW MOVES?!

YOU'RE  
THE  
PROBLEM  
!!

I'M  
GROVELING  
HERE!  
WHAT'S THE  
PROBLEM?!

WHAT'S  
THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO  
MEAN?!

GROWL GROWL

...SEEMS  
A BIT  
NOISY  
TODAY.

THE  
DOJO...

UGLY!

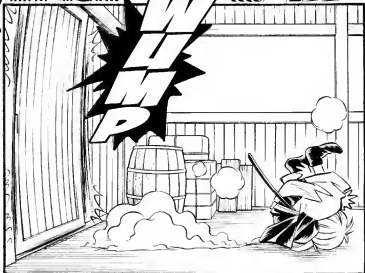
PONK

LIKE  
MANNERS,  
RE-  
STRAINT—

AND  
PEACE OF  
MIND!



STAY OUT OF THIS!!



EXCUSE  
ME...

KRI

GOOD  
AFTERNOON.

OH.  
TSUBAME-  
DONO.

PLEASE  
COME IN.

JUST AS  
KAORU-  
DONO  
SAID.





NO.  
KAORU-DONO  
AND YAHIKO  
ARE JUST  
BEATING ON  
EACH OTHER.

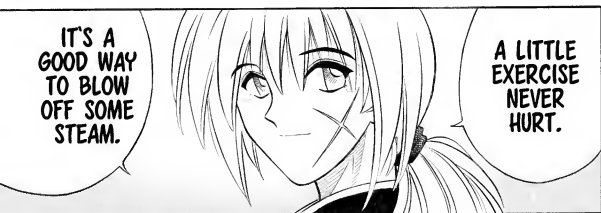
BEATING...

SHOULDN'T  
YOU STOP  
THEM?



...THAT'S  
A LOT OF  
NOISE.

ROUGH  
TRAINING?



IT'S A  
GOOD WAY  
TO BLOW  
OFF SOME  
STEAM.

A LITTLE  
EXERCISE  
NEVER  
HURT.



...



AND  
THEY  
SHOULD  
GET  
HUNGRY  
SOON...

...WHICH  
SHOULD  
PUT AN  
END TO  
THIS.

THEY'LL  
BE  
FINE.



BUT  
WHAT IF  
THEY GET  
HURT?





I JUST  
WANT  
TO BE  
STRONGER!

ANYTHING  
TO BE THE  
TINIEST BIT  
STRONGER!



YOU'RE  
BETTER THAN  
YOU THINK.

LISTEN  
TO ME,  
YAHIKO.



YOU  
FIGHT SO  
WELL, IT'S  
HARD TO  
BELIEVE  
YOU'RE  
ONLY TEN  
YEARS  
OLD.



WHENEVER  
IT'S MATTERED,  
LIKE AGAINST  
NAGAOKA AND  
HENYA, YOU'VE  
WON.

AND YOU  
WERE BARKING  
AT THAT GIANT  
FUJI WITHOUT  
A FLICKER  
OF FEAR.

I'LL BET  
NEITHER OF THEM  
HAD EXPERIENCED  
A REAL BATTLE.

AT TEN,  
KENSIN HAD  
JUST STARTED  
TRAINING...

...AND SANOSUKE  
HAD JUST STARTED  
PICKING FIGHTS  
AFTER THE  
DISBANDING OF  
THE SEKIHO  
ARMY.

BUT BECAUSE  
YOU'RE ONLY TEN,  
YOUR OWN  
STRENGTH CAN  
BE DANGEROUS.

YOU MUST BE  
THE STRONGEST  
TEN-YEAR-OLD  
IN JAPAN.

I'M SO  
HUNGRY!

ALL  
RIGHT.  
ENOUGH  
TALK.

YARU!

AS LONG  
AS YOU'RE  
DESPERATE  
FOR  
STRENGTH  
AT ANY  
COST...

...I WON'T  
TEACH YOU  
THE SECRET,  
NOR WILL YOU  
BE ABLE  
TO ATTAIN  
IT.



TOKYO  
SHINBASHI  
STATION

YOKOHAMA'S  
ONLY  
54 MINUTES  
AWAY BY  
LOCOMOTIVE!

IT SOUNDS  
FAR, BUT  
IT'S SO  
CLOSE...

THAT  
GEIN FELLOW  
IS A SHARP  
ONE!

GOD BLESS  
CIVILIZATION!!

TP

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE  
TO GO?

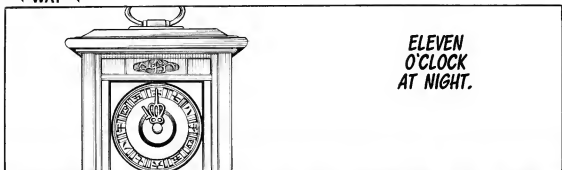
SO LET'S  
GET  
GOING!!!



# Act 158—Twin Storms Blow?



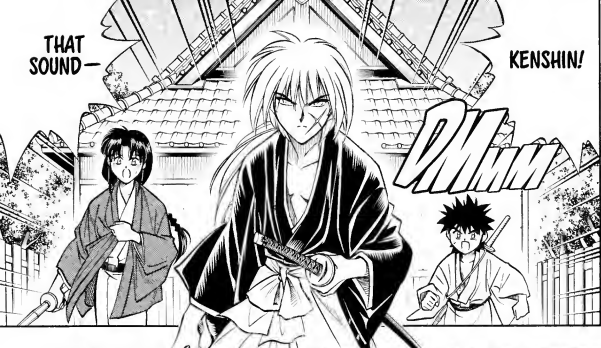






THAT  
SOUND—

KENSHIN!



P...



...MAE...  
KAWA  
DOJO  
WILL...

...HURRY...  
OR...



SHH!

TM

STOP  
THERE...

...AND  
BACK  
AWAY.



THEY'LL  
ALL...BE  
KILLED...



STAY  
WHERE  
YOU  
ARE!!!



R...  
RIGHT...

THIS ONE  
WILL RETURN IN  
THE MORNING!  
UNTIL THEN,  
LOCK UP AND  
DON'T LET  
YOUR GUARD  
DOWN!



THIS IS NO  
COINCIDENCE.  
THIS IS  
ABOUT US,  
SOMEHOW!

FIRST  
AKABEKO...  
NOW  
MAEKAWA  
DOJO.







FATHER!!

DEAR!



OR I'LL  
SHOOT  
YOU RIGHT  
HERE!

JUST  
LAY THE  
WEAPON  
DOWN—

HOOOO

STAY  
BACK!



HH

HH

HH

HH

DON'T  
COME  
NEAR ME!!





TRYING TO  
KILL ME WITH A  
THING LIKE  
THAT?

SILLY  
BOY.

...

HEH.

HYA!

NKH!

SK-  
WEEZ





SANO, THE  
MAEKAWA  
DOJO IS  
UNDER YOUR  
PROTECTION!!

THE  
CHIEF!



THIS IS TOTAL  
REVENGE—  
TARGETING  
ANY AND ALL  
THIS ONE HAS  
EVER HAD ANY  
CONTACT WITH!

HOW  
FOOLISH!  
THIS IS NO  
ORDINARY  
GRUDGE!



AND IF THIS CAN'T  
BE STOPPED NOW...  
IT WILL BECOME  
A STORM, TEARING  
THROUGH ALL  
OF TOKYO!!



PLEASE  
HANG  
ON!!

CHIEF...







**HARDLY!**

**SHAKE**

UH?!

**NOW  
YOU'RE  
FINISHED  
!!**

**NOW,  
YOU  
UGLY  
FREAK—**

HH

HH

To Be Continued in Volume 19:  
**Shades of Reality**

# GLOSSARY of the RESTORATION

*A brief guide to select Japanese terms used in **Rurouni Kenshin**. Note that, both here and within the story itself, all names are Japanese style—i.e., last or “family” name first, with personal or “given” name following. This is both because **Kenshin** is a “period” story, as well as to decrease confusion—if we were to take the example of Kenshin’s sakabatō and “reverse” the format of the historically established assassin-name “Hitokiri Battōsai,” for example, it would make little sense to then call him “Battōsai Himura.”*

## **hachimaki**

Once worn as a charm against evil spirits (as in the series *Naruto*), **hachimaki**, or traditional Japanese headbands, are worn more contemporarily as mental stimulation—a way to express one’s determination, or to put one’s self “in the mood”

## **Himura Kenshin**

Kenshin’s “real” name, revealed to Kaoru only at her urging

## **Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū**

Kenshin’s sword technique, used more for defense than offense. An “ancient style that pits one against many,” it requires exceptional speed and agility to master.

## **hitokiri**

An assassin. Famous swordsmen of the period were sometimes thus known to adopt “professional” names—**Kawakami Gensai**, for example, was also known as “Hitokiri Gensai.”

## **Ishin Shishi**

Loyalist or pro-Imperialist **patriots** who fought to restore the Emperor to his ancient seat of power

## **Juppongatana**

Written with the characters for “ten” and “swords,” Shishio’s **Juppongatana** are literally that—the ten generals or “swords” he plans to use in his overthrow of Japan

## **Kawakami Gensai**

Real-life, historical inspiration for the character of **Himura Kenshin**

## **Bakumatsu**

Final, chaotic days of the Tokugawa regime

## **Boshin War**

Civil war of 1868-69 between the new government and the **Tokugawa Bakufu**. The anti-**Bakufu**, pro-Imperial side (the Imperial Army) won, easily defeating the Tokugawa supporters.

## **-chan**

Honorific. Can be used either as a diminutive (e.g., with a small child—“Little Hanako or Kentarō”), or with those who are grown, to indicate affection (“My dear...”).

## **“Day of the Dead”**

An annual Buddhist event set aside for remembrance of the dead, the Japanese festival of Obon (sometimes known as the “**Day of the Dead**”) is currently one of the country’s three major holiday seasons and takes place either in the middle of July or August, depending on the part of the country

## **-dono**

Honorific. Even more respectful than **-san**; the effect in modern-day Japanese conversation would be along the lines of “Milord So-and-So.” As used by Kenshin, it indicates both respect and humility.

## **Edo**

Capital city of the **Tokugawa Bakufu**, renamed **Tokyo** (“Eastern Capital”) after the Meiji Restoration

**patriots**

Another term for *Ishin Shishi*...and, when used by Sano, not a flattering one

**rukouni**

Wanderer, vagabond

**sakabatô**

Reversed-edge sword (the dull edge on the side the sharp should be, and vice versa); carried by Kenshin as a symbol of his resolution never to kill again

**-sama**

Honorific. The respectful equivalent of **-san**, **-sama** is used primarily in addressing persons of much higher rank than one's self...or, in a romantic sense, in addressing those upon whom one is crushing, wicked hard.

**-san**

Honorific. Carries the meaning of "Mr.," "Ms.," "Miss," etc., but used more extensively in Japanese than its English equivalent (note that even an enemy may be addressed as **"-san"**).

**shôgun**

Feudal military ruler of Japan

**shôgunate**

See *Tokugawa Bakufu*

**Toba Fushimi, Battle at**

Battle near *Kyoto* between the forces of the new, imperial government and the fallen *shôgunate*. Ending with an imperial victory, it was the first battle of the *Boshin War*.

**Tokugawa Bakufu**

Military feudal government which dominated Japan from 1603 to 1867

**Tokyo**

The renaming of "*Edo*" to "*Tokyo*" is a marker of the start of the *Meiji Restoration*

**Kinkaku/Ginkaku Temples**

Subject of the famous novel by Yukio Mishima, the *Kinkaku-ji* or "Temple of the Golden Pavilion" was founded as a retirement home for a former *shôgun* and later converted to a Zen temple. *Ginkaku Temple*, which was founded by another member of the retired *shôgun*'s family, was built in the late 15th century and incorporates variations of designs from the *Kinkaku Temple*.

**kodachi**

Medium-length sword, shorter than the *katana* but longer than the *wakizashi*. Its easy maneuverability also makes for higher defensive capability.

**-kun**

Honorific. Used in the modern day among male students, or those who grew up together, but another usage—the one you're more likely to find in *Rurouni Kenshin*—is the "superior-to-inferior" form, intended as a way to emphasize a difference in status or rank, as well as to indicate familiarity or affection.

**Kyoto**

Home of the Emperor and imperial court from A.D. 794 until shortly after the *Meiji Restoration* in 1868

**loyalists**

Those who supported the return of the Emperor to power; *Ishin Shishi*

**Meiji Restoration**

1853-1868; culminated in the collapse of the *Tokugawa Bakufu* and the restoration of imperial rule. So called after Emperor Meiji, whose chosen name was written with the characters for "culture and enlightenment."

**Mt. Hiei**

Founded more than 1,200 years ago, the temple atop Mt. Hiei or *Hieizan* was built to protect Kyoto from evil spirits. Because police were barred from entering temple grounds, criminals began to gather in the name of "religious enlightenment." It is no coincidence, therefore, that Watsuki decided to set madman Shishio Makoto's lair there....

**Oniwabanshû**

Elite group of *onmitsu* or "spies" of the *Edo* period, also known as *ninja* or *shinobi*



# IN THE NEXT VOLUME...

It began with a sin, committed by Kenshin, back during his bloody days as *hitokiri* or a government-sanctioned slayer of men. Although stopping most of the assassins who still come seeking revenge should be easy enough, what of the innocent? For once there was *another* love in Kenshin's life, one which—given his nature—must by definition have been tragic. Can Kenshin escape the shades of his past, and find the will to fight for the real world—for the living—for reality?!



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